

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

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21 JUN 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your request of June 11, 1975, I submit herewith my comments on the report to you by the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States. As you will note, with a few exceptions caused by practical considerations, I concur fully in the recommendations of the Commission to clarify publicly the appropriate CIA activities within the United States and to ensure against any future unauthorized or improper activity in this country. I note with great pleasure the Commission's adoption of a number of recommendations previously made by me with this end in mind and the inclusion of a number of internal CIA directives issued in the summer of 1973 to accomplish this result. I accept fully the Commission's additional recommendations in this same spirit and only recommend minor modifications to reflect certain practical problems within the overall policy outlined by the Commission.

There are some matters included in the Commission's Report which are supplemental to the report provided you on December 24, 1974. You will recall that that report was generated by a newspaper article of 22 December 1974. My report focused on the information immediately available to me referring to the points covered by that article. You will recall that certain additional matters were covered in my oral report to you on January 3, 1975.

The Commission's Report also includes additional information ascertained during the extensive investigations conducted by the Commission and within this Agency in the more extended time

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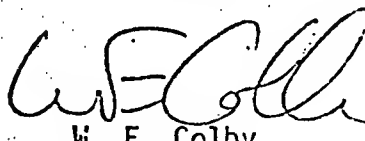
available after December 24, 1974. By arrangement with the Commission, during this period CIA did not go outside its current employees and files actively to investigate this subject so as to avoid any suggestion of possible CIA influence on the testimony or evidence which might be given by its ex-employees or by others. Thus, in a number of respects the Commission's knowledge from ex-employees, other witnesses and documents available outside CIA is better than CIA's.

There are only a few matters of detail on which the evidence available to CIA conflicts in some degree with the statements made in the Commission's report. I do not believe these sufficiently grave to bring to your attention, but I will communicate with the Vice President with respect to them separately to clarify the record.

This investigation has generated great public interest and will be followed, as you are aware, by extensive congressional investigations of our intelligence effort generally. As you know, I am deeply concerned that this extensive public discussion of our intelligence activities, and especially its sensational tone, threaten to endanger this important national resource. I much appreciate the effort you personally and others, including the Commission, have made to clarify the importance of intelligence to our country. I am also pleased that the Commission has noted that the "great majority of the CIA's domestic activities comply with its statutory authority." I fully accept, as I have testified publicly, that the CIA has, over the 28 years of its history, engaged in some activities "that should be criticized and should not be permitted to happen again." I am particularly pleased that the Commission notes that "the Agency's own recent actions, undertaken for the most part in 1973 and 1974, have gone far to terminate the activities upon which this investigation has focused."

In summary, I believe the procedures recommended by the Commission and endorsed by me (with the modifications proposed) should indeed ensure the continuation of this important service to our nation and equally ensure that it be responsive to American standards, while it continues to be by far the best intelligence service in the world.

Respectfully,

  
W. E. Colby  
Director

Enclosure

cc: The Vice President  
The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Attorney General  
The Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
The Chairman, The President's Foreign  
Intelligence Advisory Board  
The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
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